

NGA Director Letitia A. Long Honored at ONI

FROM OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Letitia A. "Tish" Long, Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) was recognized for her contributions to naval intelligence over the course of her extraordinary career that began in 1978 as a project engineer in training with the David Taylor Research Center. She joined the staff of the Director of Naval Intelligence in 1988 and from there she rose to her current position as the first woman to lead a major national intelligence agency.

Ms. Long's portrait with a plaque inscribed with her career milestones was added to the Naval Intelligence Wall of Honor in the National Maritime Intelligence Center (NMIC) Gallery. It was officially unveiled before a gathering of Maritime GEOINT Office personnel and other Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) employees who served with Ms. Long over the course of her career. The honor was a surprise for the NGA Director, who came to ONI to bid farewell to MGO personnel before her impending retirement.

Providing exceptional leadership under extraordinarily challenging circumstances is among the criteria for inclusion on the Naval Intelligence Wall of Honor. As Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence from 2000 to 2003, Ms. Long was an essential part of the leadership team that navigated naval intelligence through the challenges posed in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 9-11. She shared in the community's grief for the eight ONI personnel assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations Intelligence Plot in the Pentagon who perished that day. In the months and years that followed, Ms. Long worked tirelessly to ensure that naval intelligence had the resources needed to perform an expanding array of missions and meet emerging requirements.

RADM Elizabeth L. Train, Commander, Office of Naval Intelligence presided over the ceremony. Admiral Train related a story about when she was Director of Intelligence at U.S. Pacific Command, she worked with Ms. Long to support U.S. Navy humanitarian relief operations in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan in March 2011. "Tish just let her folks free-think...coming up with very non-traditional means of applying the power of intelligence to a humanitarian disaster situation. "Admiral Train said, "it was very hard operations, but I think that NGA was a huge piece of that success, of working through that and strengthening our partnership with Japan. I am very proud to have worked with you, and for you." As Ms. Long joined RADM Train to unveil the official portrait on the Naval Intelligence Wall of Honor, RADM Train said, "We want to remember you here always and be proud of our relationship with you, and be grateful for what you have done for us."

Visibly moved, Ms. Long addressed the audience. Looking at the portraits on the wall, she noted, "I will tell you, I have had many amazing opportunities as I started my career here. There are many on this wall who mentored me and helped enable those opportunities along the way...And so as I look throughout this audience here, many of you who I worked with over

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the years, I hope you can say that I did that. That is certainly something I would want to be remembered for. We don't do what we do on our own. You are all my shipmates and have been throughout the years. I thank you for all you have done and continue to do. I will continue to watch, I will continue to be your biggest cheerleader. Naval Intelligence has a very special place in my heart, and it always will. Not only because I started here, but because of who you are - amazing people with an amazing mission. I am truly humbled by this, and truly honored. Thank you very much."

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